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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,067	07/07/2003	Shinobu Nagura	VX032540	8544
21369	7590	10/01/2004	EXAMINER	
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC 106-A S. COLUMBUS ST. ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			LAZO, THOMAS E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3745	

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/613,067

Applicant(s)

NAGURA ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas E. Lazo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/7/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 8, "circuit" should be --circuits--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maruta et al. (6,460,332). Maruta et al. discloses in figure 1(a) a plural pressure oil energies selective recovery apparatus with plural sub-recovery circuits 11,12 in which return pressure oils from plural hydraulic actuators 7,29 flow, respectively, a main recovery circuit 16 connected to return pressure oil recovery means 18, a selection means 13 which controls the main recovery circuit 16 and one of the sub-recovery circuits 11,12 to be connected selectively, wherein the selection means 13 is a selection circuit which controls the sub-recovery circuits 11,12 and the main recovery circuit 16 to be connected selectively based upon conditions for prioritizing a return

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pressure oil with a high recovery efficiency (higher pressure) out of the plural recovery pressure oils, the selection circuit 13 is a selection circuit which controls the sub-recovery circuit connecting to a hydraulic actuator 7,29, which is selected according to contents of work (higher pressure) and the main recovery circuit 16 to be connected selectively, and the selection circuit 13 is a selection circuit which controls the sub-recovery circuit connecting to a hydraulic actuator 7,29 with a high recovery efficiency (higher pressure) and the main recovery circuit 16 to be connected selectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art

Prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure and consists of two patents.

Endo et al. (6,378,301) and Endo et al. (6,151,894) are cited to show plural pressure oil energies recovery apparatus.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Lazo whose telephone number is (703) 308-2285. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

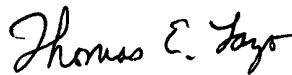
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Edward Look, can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to status of this application or proceeding should be direct to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



Thomas E. Lazo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3745

TEL

September 30, 2004